*[English]*

**Elementary Education**

*80. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since decided to make elementary education for children between the age of six and fourteen a fundamental right;

(b) if so, the steps taken to give effect to the proposal so far;

(c) whether the Government have since received a suggestion to Christen this programme as 'Netaji Anivarya Shiksha Yojana' as a mark of respect to Netaji on his Birth Centenary year;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether India can achieve total literacy by the end of this century; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to make right to free and compulsory education for children from 6 to 14 years a fundamental right and to make it a fundamental duty of parents to provide opportunities for education to children from 6 to 14 years of age has been approved by the Cabinet. A Constitutional Amendment Bill to this effect is likely to be introduced in the Parliament in its current Session.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The Government aims to bring about full literacy by 2005 AD through Universalisation of Elementary Education, Non-Formal Education Programme and National Literacy Mission which constitute a three pronged strategy for eradication of illiteracy throughout the country. As of now, 430 districts have been covered under Total Literacy Compaign and 195 districts under Post-Literacy compaign. So far 63.64 million persons have been made literate under all schemes of NLM.

**Computer Education**

675. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State.

(a) whether the Government are implementing "Computer Literacy Awareness" Programme in schools in various States;

(b) if so, the number of schools covered so far under the programme in Orissa; and

(c) the total number of students benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 117 schools have been covered under the Pre-revised scheme of 'Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools' (CLASS Scheme) in the State of Orissa. Data regarding total number of students benefitted therefrom is not maintained in this Department.

*[Translation]*

**Ground Water level in Gujarat**

676. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any scheme from Gujarat Government to raise ground water level in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main objective of this scheme and whether this scheme is likely to be implemented in other States of the country;

(d) whether the Government have mobilised additional financial resources for implementing this scheme; and

(e) the present status of the scheme and the time by which the Union Government are likely to accord approval to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat had sent a project proposal for "augmenting surface water recharge in over exploited aquifers of North Gujarat" at an estimated cost of Rs. 110.65 crores. The project proposal is meant for implementation in North Gujarat only.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Water Resources recommended the project proposal to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) in March, 1996

for posing the same to some external donar agency for assistance. Approval of the project proposal by the Union Government depends on the availability of external assistance.

*[English]*

**GAIL**

677. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the commitment made to Asian Development Bank for divesting holding in Gas Authority of India Limited and the divestment made so far;

(b) whether the Government propose to honour the commitment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) A commitment was made to the Asian Development Bank in 1994 that Govt. would divest 30% of its holding in GAIL by December 1996. 5% of Govt. holdings were offered to domestic investors in January, 1995 and based on the bids received 3.67% of the equity was sold to the investors.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Based on the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission the Govt. has approved further divestment upto 25% equity in GAIL. The process is expected to be completed by end of the current financial year.

**World Bank Loan for Highway Projects in Andhra Pradesh**

678. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide loan to the Union Government for State highway projects to be set up in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Andhra Pradesh has prepared any plan for development of roads on the proposed loan that will be provided by the World Bank; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The plan covers strengthening and widening of State Highways totalling to a length of about 1347 Kms. of high density corridors. The project is envisaged to be taken up in 3 phases and is targeted for completion by the year 2002.

**Performance of Private Students**

679. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the results of private students in class 12th examination this year were not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether discriminatory attitude is adopted while checking the papers of private students in comparison to the regular students;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether more formality is displayed on the demand of unsuccessful students for rechecking the papers by just rechecking the total marks obtained by the candidates and the rechecked copies are not shown to the aggrieved candidates;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to consider the demand of the students to show them their rechecked copies on demand basis sympathetically; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), 26.68% private candidates passed in the Class XII examination conducted by the Board in 1997 as compared to pass percentage of 27.49 and 25.94 in 1996 and 1995 respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The CBSE has informed that in the case of candidates applying for re-checking, proper scrutiny of marks is undertaken as per the provisions of the Examination Bye-Laws of the Board. There is no provision under the Examination Bye-Laws of the Board to show the answer scripts to the candidates.